

absolve  
analyze  
catalyst

**Key Words**  
concise  
herbicide  
precise  
resolute

resolve  
superfluous  
superlative

**Familiar Words**

superabundant  
superficial  
superior  
superman  
supermarket  
supernatural  
superstar  
superstition  
supervise  
supreme

**Challenge Words**

superannuate  
supercilious  
superimpose  
supersonic  
supernal  
supernova  
superscribe

**Familiar Words**

cement  
chisel  
decide  
pesticide  
scissors  
suicide

**Challenge Words**

Caesarean section  
caesura  
excise  
fratricide  
genocide  
homicide  
incisive  
matricide  
patricide  
regicide

**SUPER** <L. "above"

1. **superlative** (sōō pûr'lə tīv) [*latum* <L. "carried"]  
*adj.* The highest; above the rest.

**Superlative** builders of irrigation systems, the Pueblo peoples had much to teach seventeenth-century colonists in New Mexico.

**NOTA BENE:** *Superlative* is also a grammatical term used to describe the third form in a series of adjectives: *tall* (positive); *taller* (comparative); *tallest* (superlative).

2. **superfluous** (sōō pûr'flōō əs)  
[*fluere* <L. "to flow"]  
*adj.* Beyond what is required; extra.

Because it no longer serves a purpose, the appendix has become **superfluous** in human beings.

**superfluity**, *n.*; **superfluously**, *adv.*

**CAEDO, CAEDERE, CECIDI, CAESUM** <L. "to cut"

3. **concise** (kən sīs') [*con* = *cum* <L. "with"]  
*adj.* Saying or writing much in few words.

"Experience teaches" is a **concise** way to say that what happens in our daily lives guides us in subsequent actions.

**concisely**, *adv.*; **conciseness**, *n.*

4. **herbicide** (hûr'bī sīd) [*herba* <L. "grass," "plants with stems"]  
*n.* A substance for killing plants, especially weeds.

The **herbicide** known as Agent Orange was used in Vietnam to kill vegetation.

**herbicidal**, *adj.*

5. **precise** (prī sīs') [*pre* = *prae* <L. "before," "in front of"]  
*adj.* Clearly expressed; exact; accurate in every detail.

Sending a satellite to photograph the planet Neptune millions of miles from earth requires **precise** calculations.

**precisely**, *adv.*; **precision**, *n.*

Antonym: **imprecise**

**NOTA BENE:** Another word that means "to cut" or "to split" is the Greek word *skhizein*, which gives us the English word *schism* (sīz'm, skīz'm), "a separation or division into factions," as in "A *schism* exists between Hindus and Muslims." Another derivative from *skhizein* is the term *schizophrenia*, "a mental disturbance that separates one from reality."

**Familiar Word**  
paralyze

**LUEIN** <G. "to loosen," "to untie"  
**LUTOS** <G. "capable of being untied"

6. **analyze** (ăn'ə līz) [ana <G. "on," "up"]  
*tr. v.* To look at something carefully by attention to its parts.  
When doctors **analyze** the nature of cells, they find ways to fight disease.

**Challenge Words**  
dialysis  
proselytize

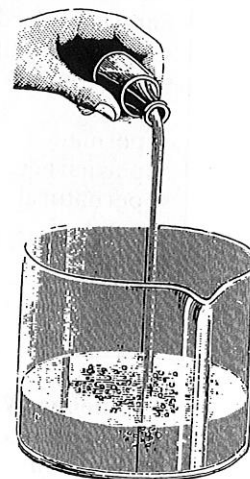
**analysis** (plural **analyses**), *n.*; **analytical**, *adj.*

7. **catalyst** (kăt'əl ɪst) [cata <G. "down from"]  
*n.* A force or person causing action, especially without being involved or changed by the consequences.

Mahatma Gandhi served as the **catalyst** for the nonviolent political change adopted by Martin Luther King, Jr.

**NOTA BENE:** In chemistry, a *catalyst* is a substance that causes or accelerates change but remains unaffected itself.

**catalysis**, *n.*; **catalytic**, *adj.*; **catalytically**, *adv.*; **catalyze**, *v.*



**Familiar Words**  
absolute  
dissolve  
soluble  
solution  
solve

**SOLVO, SOLVERE, SOLVI, SOLUTUM** <L. "to loosen," "to untie"

8. **absolve** (ăb zôlv', ăb sôlv') [ab <L. "away from"]  
*tr. v.* To relieve of blame or obligation; to pardon a sin.

Although we were sequestered with the culprits for questioning, our innocence **absolved** us from punishment.

**absolution**, *n.*; **absolved**, *adj.*

9. **resolute** (rěz'ə lōōt) [re <L. "back," "again"]  
*adj.* Determined; unshakable.

**Resolute** even though paralyzed and in a wheelchair, Ruth Rosenbaum has won Olympic medals in slalom, shot put, discus, and javelin.

**resolutely**, *adv.*; **resolution**, *n.*

Antonym: **irresolute**

10. **resolve** (rĭ zôlv') [re <L. "back," "again"]  
*tr. v.* 1. To make a firm decision about.

She **resolved** to run five miles every morning.

**NOTA BENE:** In formal debate, issues appear in the following form:  
*Resolved:* that the social committee will stay within its budget.

2. To find a solution.

The mediator **resolved** the conflict.

**resolution**, *n.*; **resolved**, *adj.*

**Challenge Words**  
dissolution  
resoluble